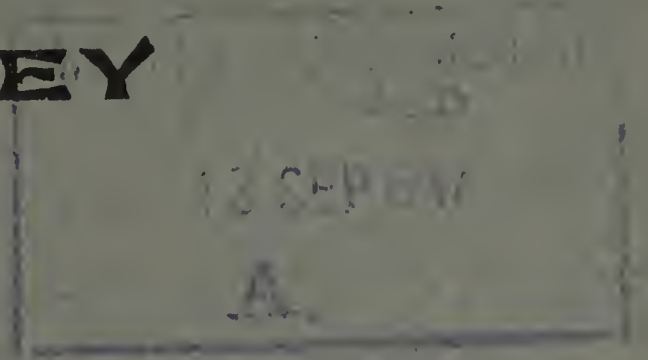


URBAN DISTRICT OF

RHYMNEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1946

□□□

Rhymney

Urban District Council.

Chairman (1946) Counc. D. A. MOSELEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman (1946) Counc. JOHN JONES.

Clerk and Accountant to the Council ... R. T. LEWIS, ESQ., A.C.I.S.

MEMBERS

Upper Ward

Councillor John Jones
Councillor Benjamin Richards
Councillor B. I. Evans, J.P.
Councillor Gomer Jones.

Middle Ward

Councillor W. R. Morgan
Councillor W. T. Powell
Councillor Norman Gilbert

Lower Ward

Councillor Jenkin Howells
Councillor J. J. Williams
Councillor D. A. Moseley

Abertysswg Ward

Councillor Gwilym Richards
Councillor Philip Price
Councillor W. J. Greene, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) from January, 1947 :

I. L. R. EVANS, M.B.E., B.SC., M.B., B.CH.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Redwood on 3rd January, 1947. The late Dr. Redwood had been Medical Officer of Health of Rhymney for about 36 years, and it can be truly stated that he was always deeply concerned with the health of the inhabitants in general, and also with the conditions under which they lived.

Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time) :

G. R. DAVIES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Certificated Sanitary Inspector, The Royal Sanitary Institute,
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, The Royal Sanitary Institute.

To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the
Rhymney Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

We beg to submit the Annual Report on the vital statistics and sanitary conditions of your District for the year 1946. This has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circulars 49/45 (Wales), dated 19th March, 1945; 28/46 (Wales), dated 11th February, 1946, and Circular 13/47, issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Urban District of Rhymney (which is 1,395.9 feet above sea level at the highest point and 780 feet at the lowest) is situated at the top of the Rhymney Valley in the north-west corner of Monmouthshire, and on the northern outcrop of the South Wales coal basin, a small portion of the upper end being in the southern extremity of the County of Breconshire. It is bounded on the west by the River Rhymney (which divides Monmouthshire and Glamorgan); on the east by the Tysswg Brook and the Urban District of Tredegar; on the north by Breconshire, and on the south by the Urban District of Bedwellty. It covers an area of 2,647.94 acres. For all administrative purposes, the whole *area* is included in the County of Monmouthshire.

Coal-mining is the chief industry, and, unfortunately, from 1921 and until the outbreak of *war*, September, 1939, it gradually declined, with the consequent loss of population, and unemployment over many years for a large number of the population that remained. As stated in previous reports, with work available, the health and physical efficiency of the people would improve in consequence. With Nationalisation of the coal-mining industry, together with the present (February, 1947) serious *crisis* arising from the shortage of coal, it is hoped (and believed that they will) that conditions will greatly improve and be decidedly more attractive for those engaged in this hazardous employment, and that the distressed and depressed conditions that prevailed between the two Great Wars will *never* be allowed to return.

As stated previously, the need for alternative employment cannot be too strongly stressed, and also for the provision of means of a livelihood for those people who have had to give up work in collieries through industrial disease.

New Clothing Factory.—Work on the erection of this factory proceeded during the year, but owing to site difficulties and shortage of materials, the progress has been slow. It is the hope of all concerned that it will be completed and be in full production before the end of 1947.

It is also hoped that it will be possible in the very near future for a substantial increase in the number employed by the Rhymney Engineering Company.

Population at Census, 1921	...	...	...	...	11,690
" " " 1931	...	...	...	...	10,506

Estimated resident population for 1946, as supplied by the Registrar-General, and upon which statistics are based, is 8,773. This is 11 more than the estimated figure for 1945.

Area of the District in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,647.94
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	£26,590
Penny Rate Product, 1945—46 ...	...	...	...	...	...	£95 3 5

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females			
Legitimate ...	160	98	62	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the		
Illegitimate ...	6	2	4	Population ...	...	18.9

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females			
Legitimate ...	2	2	0	Rate per 1,000 total live and		
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1	still birth ...	...	17.7

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population is .34; for England and Wales, .53; and for Monmouthshire, .64.

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females	Death Rate per 1,000 of the		
119	67	52	Population ...	...	13.5

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—				Rate per 1,000 total live and	
			Deaths	still births	
Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	Nil	Nil	
Other Maternal Causes ...	...	...	1	5.9	
			Total	1	5.9

The County Rate for puerperal sepsis is .16; and for other maternal causes, 2.03.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live birth ...	...	...	...	...	81.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	...	...	0
All Infants per 1,000 live birth ...	...	...	...	...	78.3
There were 13 deaths under one year (13 legitimate and 0 illegitimate).					

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	...	...	...	18
Deaths from Heart diseases ...	...	...	...	...	30

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year — None.

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., 1946

	Death Rate (All Causes)	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population	Total Deaths under 1 year (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)
England and Wales ...	11.5	19.1	43.0
Monmouthshire ...	11.7	19.9	47.6
Rhymney ...	13.5	18.9	78.3

The death rate at all ages is 2.0 more than that for England and Wales, and 1.8 more than that for Monmouthshire (County), and the rate for deaths under one year of age is 35.3 more than the rate for England and Wales and 30.7 more than the rate for the County. The birth-rate is a little below that of England and Wales and the County.

As will be noted, there is considerable room for improvement in the infantile death rate.

For 1945 the Death Rate (all ages) was 11.9; the Birth Rate, 16.3, and the Infantile Rate, 76.9.

HOSPITALS (Infectious Disease). Arrangements are made with other Local Authorities to remove cases of infectious diseases to their Isolation Hospitals when considered necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS. No provision by District Council. All Tuberculosis cases are known to the Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Memorial, who hold a Clinic once a month at the Central Surgery, Rhymney.

All appropriate cases are offered and urged to go to the Hospitals and Sanatoria provided by the Memorial.

MATERNITY. No provision by District Council. All expectant mothers are urged to attend the ante-natal clinics of the Monmouthshire County Council at Rhymney and Abertysswg. Difficult cases are admitted to the Maternity Home at Newport.

Any unexpected emergency, unfit for removal to Newport, is dealt with at the Rhymney Hospital.

Some cases, at their own request or for minor complications, are admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home.

CHILDREN. No provision by the Council. Surgical cases go to the Cottage Hospitals at Rhymney and Abertysswg.

Orthopædic cases, through the County Council, go to their clinics at places and times arranged by them.

A Rheumatic Clinic (post Rheumatic hearts) has been provided by the Monmouthshire County Council.

INCURABLES (Inoperative Malignant Disease). The only provision is the County Infirmary at Tredegar. The need for further provision is constantly being felt for these cases.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS. Illegitimate Children and Homeless Children. The Infirmary at Tredegar and the Children's Homes at Tredegar and Rhymney is the only provision for this District.

OTHER. Poor law cases needing Hospital Treatment are sent to the Infirmary at Tredegar (County).

The Rhymney Cottage Hospital and the Abertysswg Cottage Hospital owned by the workmen of the district, admit surgical cases, *i.e.*, accidents and surgical diseases of the workmen and their dependents.

Medical and Surgical cases are also sent to the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, and the Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Convalescent cases amongst colliery workmen go to Talygarn Miners' Welfare Home, also Porthcawl Rest.

A few women go to the Convalescent Home at Southerndown. There is very little provision for convalescent women (one small home for a large area).

There is no provision for convalescence for children.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY. The conditions remain the same as at the end of last year, the supply is ample and of good quality. The Rhymney Urban District Council is a contributory authority to the Rhymney Valley Water Board with representation thereon. Forty-six houses at Princetown and Rhymney Bridge are supplied by the Tredegar Urban District Council.

Source A. Gathering ground at Blaen Rhymney; this empties into (1) Old Reservoir, 9,000,000 gallons; (2) New Reservoir, 46,000,000 gallons; the property of the Rhymney Valley Water Board.

Source B. From the Taff Fechan Reservoir, the property of the Taff Fechan Supply Board. Capacity, 350,000,000 gallons.

Springs (8 outlying farmhouses and 11 isolated cottages). On the whole, these have been fairly successful throughout the year.

Reports upon Water Samples, Etc.

					Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
1.	(a)	Bacteriological examination of raw water ...			None	None
	(b)	Bacteriological examination of treated water			8	1
	(c)	Chemical Analyses			1	None
2.	(a)	Plumbo Solvent Action			Remarks by County Analyst: "The water has only slight solvent action on weathered pipes. Fairly soft neutral water. The chemical and physical characters are fairly good.	
	(b)	Details of contamination by lead, precau- tions taken, and number and results of analyses			None experienced.	
3.	(a)	Number of houses supplied from public water mains :—				
	(i)	Direct to the houses				2,274
	(ii)	By means of stand-pipes				30
	(b)	Approximate population supplied from public water mains :—				
	(i)	Direct to the houses				8,643
	(ii)	By means of stand-pipes				100
4.		Action in respect of any form of contamination				None

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. With the exception of minor improvements and the clearing of blockages, the sewers have, on the whole, worked satisfactorily.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. With the exception of outlying houses and isolated farmhouses, the whole district is served by the water carriage system. A scheme was prepared during 1939 for the laying of a sewer at Princetown and Rhymney Bridge (50 houses) and for the conversion of the privies and pail closets to water-closets, but owing to the outbreak of War an enquiry arranged by the Ministry had to be abandoned. The matter is again under consideration by the Council, and a new estimate of the cost has been asked for.

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE, STREET CLEANSING, ETC.

This service is carried out by direct labour, and under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. From 1st April, 1946, the District Council have been responsible for the cleansing of Trunk, Class 1 and Class 2 Roads, and also for the cleansing of surface water gullies on these roads.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, SHOPS AND OFFICES. Sanitary conveniences have been provided in all cases where necessary. Attention is also given to section 10 (1) (b) (Temperature).

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Six houses (five private and one Council) were found to be infested, and the whole premises treated.

The methods adopted are :—

(1) Cimex Patent Block Disinfestators, and then spraying with insecticide.

(2) Removal of skirting boards, etc., and using a blow-lamp.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority. Insecticides are also given (free) to tenants.

The under-mentioned insecticides and fumigants are used :—

Zaldecide, Pyagra, Cimex, Solution "B".

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(119 Intimation Letters and 81 Statutory Notices were served)

Nuisances Detected or Repairs Required

	Total
(1) Defective and Choked W.C. drains ...	22
(2) Provide W.C. or privy accommodation ...	0
(3) To open and repair slop drains ...	7
(4) To drain, flush, cleanse or repair urinals ...	2
(5) To provide or repair cisterns in W.C.s ...	3
(6) To pave and repair back-yards ...	5
(7) Throwing of house refuse or removal of foul accumulations ...	2
(8) To cleanse cesspools ...	0
(9) To cleanse dwelling-houses and bedding ...	1
(10) To provide and repair rainwater troughing and downspouts ...	27
(11) To repair drain vent or soil pipes ...	0
(12) To limewash pig or chicken cot ...	2
(13) To prevent overcrowding ...	0
(14) To prevent pollution of streams or rivers ...	0
(15) To repair defective house roofs causing dampness ...	56
(16) To provide sinks in houses ...	0
(17) To provide or repair coal buildings ...	4
(18) To cleanse water courses ...	0
(19) To repair W.C. walls, roofs, doors and floors ...	27
(20) To provide new W.C. pans ...	6
(21) To provide new ovens ...	8
(22) To repair privies or provide new pails ...	1
(23) To provide or repair pantries ...	9
(24) To repair fireplaces ...	11
(25) To repair or take down dangerous chimney stacks and rebuild ...	6
(26) To replaster walls ...	26
(27) To rebuild boundary or retaining walls ...	8
(28) To repair house floors ...	15
(29) To repair broken ceilings ...	18
(30) To provide slop drains ...	1
(31) Defective condition of main walls ...	23
(32) Defective condition of house doors or windows ...	68
(33) Other nuisances ...	15

INFESTATION ORDER AND RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. During June and December maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out with good results.

A number of premises (including refuse tips and river banks, etc.) were also treated, and charges made upon the occupiers. All treatments were made according to the instructions and new technique laid down for the destruction of rats and mice by the Ministry of Food, and which has proved to be most successful.

The work was carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and who is helped by an Assistant Rodent Officer.

HOUSING

The remarks made in successive Annual Reports upon bad housing and of the shortage of houses can again be repeated, and the need for new houses stressed as strongly as ever. The long list of applicants for houses becomes larger each week, and it appears that it will take a few years to improve the position to any appreciable extent.

Work is proceeding on a site for the erection of fifty prefabricated houses; on four sites for the erection of fifty-two steel houses, and on the Penydre site for the erection of eighty-four permanent houses, but up to the time of writing this report (February, 1947), progress is rather slow.

Last year a large amount of work was again accomplished in the way of repairing houses. Minor repairs are being carried out from time to time, but with the shortage of labour and materials it is often difficult to have work carried out.

POST-WAR HOUSING NEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS :—

- (1) To replace unfit houses.
- (2) To relieve overcrowding.
- (3) To provide accommodation for young people who have never had a home of their own.
- (4) Bungalows for aged people.

Owing to industrial depression and financial difficulties, a Housing Scheme has not been carried out in this area since 1920—21, when sixty houses were built.

The total number of houses owned by the Council is ninety.

Prosecutions instituted during the year — 1.

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
(1) Non-compliance with Statutory Notices re Repairs, etc.	Ordered to carry out work within three months and to pay 47/6 costs.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

During the year twelve samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. These were all found to be free from tubercle bacilli, etc.

NATIONAL MILK-TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME. Since September, 1943, samples have also been collected fortnightly from producer and retailer, and results, on the whole, have been satisfactory. During the year 264 samples were submitted for examination.

The two slaughter houses were only used occasionally during the year, in order to kill pigs kept by cottagers, etc. Since the War, livestock are killed at Government slaughter houses.

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR. 3lb. Ham, 34½lb. Bacon, 40lb. Sausage.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS KILLED by farmers, cottagers, etc., during the year : Pigs, 71.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924. These Regulations have been carried out in a satisfactory manner on the whole.

SHOPS, STORES. There has been no cause for complaint as to the protection of the meat from contamination and the sanitary condition of the premises. All butcher shops have refrigerators.

FISH-FRYING AND CHIP POTATO SHOPS, ETC. Attention was given to all the appliances used in connection with this trade respecting cleanliness, etc.

BAKEHOUSES. Limewashing and general cleanliness receives attention.

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED. 2lb. Cheese, 1lb. Butter, 44 tins Meat, 52 tins Milk, 6 tins Fruit, 1 tin Veg., 20 tins Beans, 11 tins Fish, 9 tins Peas, 1 tin Jam, 1 bottle Jam, 1 bottle Cabbage (144 tins).

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1945—168 Cases (Scarlet Fever, 20 ; Diphtheria, 23 ; Tuberculosis, 9 ; Measles, 108 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1 ; Whooping Cough, 6).

1944—67 Cases (Scarlet Fever, 10 ; Diphtheria, 14 ; Whooping Cough, 9 ; Tuberculosis, 23 ; Erysipelas, 5 ; Measles, 3 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 ; Pyrexia, 1 ; Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1).

1943—352 Cases (Scarlet Fever, 6 ; Diphtheria, 24 ; Measles, 284 ; Whooping Cough, 7 ; Tuberculosis, 20 ; Pneumonia, 5 ; Erysipelas, 2 ; Pyrexia, 4).

1946—96 Cases (Scarlet Fever, 37 ; Diphtheria, 18 ; Tuberculosis, 19 ; Measles, 1 ; Erysipelas, 0 ; Whooping Cough, 8 ; Acute Pneumonia, 11 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 ; Puerperal Pyrexia, 1).

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.

Upper Ward	...	...	27 cases.
Middle Ward	..	...	28 cases.
Lower Ward	...	...	30 cases.
Abertysswg Ward	...	...	11 cases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

During the Year 1946.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ...	37	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ...	18	2	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal) ...	11	Nil	Nil
Other diseases generally notifi- able (specify disease) ...			
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	8	Nil	Nil
Measles ...	1	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases—I			Vision Un- impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hos- pital.				
I	Yes	Nil	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil

The Sanitary Inspector visits each house and instructs how to carry out isolation there ; in most cases from the number of occupants and the type of house this is difficult or impossible.

Small Pox—No case. Erysipelas—No case (1 case in 1945).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system, 3 ; death rate per 1,000 living, .34 ; deaths from other forms of Tubercular Diseases, 1 ; death rate per 1,000 living, .1 ; death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis, .46. Last year the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.02 ; from other Tubercular Diseases, Nil ; and from all forms of Tuberculosis, 1.02.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the notified cases and of the deaths :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES—19				DEATHS—4			
	Respiratory 16		Non- Respiratory 3		Respiratory 3		Non- Respiratory 1	
	10 M.	6 F.	3 M.	0 F.	2 M.	1 F.	1 M.	0 F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
and upwards								
Totals	10	6	3	—	2	1	1	—

There were three deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and one death from the non-pulmonary type. The four cases were notified.

Patients from the district are admitted to the following Institutions :—

- (1) Glan Ely Hospital, near Cardiff.
- (2) North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh.
- (3) Cefn Mabley Hospital, near Cardiff.
- (4) Mardy Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations, which are framed with the view of preventing persons suffering from Tuberculosis occupying themselves in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. 1936, SECTION 172

Section 172. This Section, which enforces the compulsory removal of a patient suffering from tuberculosis and in an infectious state to Hospital when there is no proper accommodation at the house, was not made use of.

Tuberculosis is still relatively prevalent in the district compared to other notifiable diseases. The new provisions should influence the position. For the allowances scheme, etc., please see Monmouthshire County Council Annual Report.

Diphtheria. The need of immunisation was again widely advertised, and the response was fairly good. Suitable and convenient arrangements have been made at Rhymney Cottage Hospital for children of school age, and at Mon. County Council Infant Welfare Clinic for children under school age. Three deaths occurred during the year at the following ages : 23 years, 3 years; 1 year. Not one of these persons had been immunised. Eighteen cases were notified during the year.

Scabies (1941) Order. Cases are removed to Hospital at Abergavenny when found necessary.

It is hoped that at a future date it will be possible to open a local Hostel for cases in our own district.

Enteric Fever. No case.

Pneumonia (Acute Influenza and Acute Primary). Eleven cases notified. The heavy rainfall during the winter months, and high altitude, has some influence on the number of these cases. Eight deaths, but nearly all from Broncho-pneumonia.

Encephalitis Lethargica. No case notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case.

Malaria and Dysentery. No cases.

Influenza. Four deaths.

Disinfection. In every case of infectious disease the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector immediately after notification, and frequently during the illness, until disinfection is carried out.

There is no steam disinfecter in the district and no facilities for dealing with verminous persons and their belongings. Some years ago this matter was discussed with the Tredegar Urban District Council. It is hoped that it will be possible in the near future for these services to be provided.

In conclusion, we again wish to express our appreciation for the continued and willing support of the Council throughout the year.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

I. L. R. EVANS, M.B.E., B.Sc., B.Ch.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. DAVIES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector, etc.

February, 1947.





